

# Waltrip High School

## Shared Decision Making Committee

09/24/2009  
4:15 PM  
Distant Learning Lab

Note taker:  
Cynthia Krohn

Facilitator:  
Cynthia Krohn

Attendees:

	Steve Siebenaler	X	Shannon Koebelen	X	Gina Van Fossen-Suarez
	Lori Frodine	X	James Mayer	X	Elizabeth Villarreal
X	Richard Pesin	X	Suzanne Meador	X	Ricardo Zavala
X	Frank Salinas	X	Lynsey Priddy		
X	Cynthia Krohn		Margaretanne (Brandy) Tookes		
X	Ruby Blackmon		Anthony Zuccarini		
X	Stephanie Floyd	X	Barbara J. White		
X	Dale Harrison		Delinda Holland		

## Agenda

Mr. Siebenaler was off campus at a meeting at Central Region, so Ms. Krohn facilitated the meeting in his absence.

### Safety

Ms. Floyd reported on Mr. Lertora's discussion that he had with the intervention teachers on Wednesday. The cameras are still not all operational and some of the recorders are not recording. We will have 96 cameras working but right now, we are vulnerable because some of the cameras are not functional and some of the recorders are not recording. Mr. Lertora told the groups who will be walking the halls during intervention that system needs to be rewired in order to handle the cameras that will be installed. It may not be effectively working until the start of school next year. We are working as best we can with what we currently have.

The issue of four corners crowd control. We have had inappropriate touching and other issues occurring there. We need to address the congestion in that corner and the guys that keep their corners posted. We need someone assigned to work that corner during class changes. We need a presence at four corners. We need to remind teachers to do their hall duty and encourage the kids to move along. We need to educate the kids about keeping to the right side of the hall. We might consider closing one stairwell to up only. We need the teachers to get behind the rules. We need to deal with the kids that hide outside between the buildings. We also need to deal with the crowds in the girls' restroom in RAMS.

### Introductions

We took a few minutes to introduce ourselves. We have a new committee this year as only 3 teachers returned from last year and Krohn was re-elected; the rest of the school staff is new. We also have a new business representative,

Ricardo Zavala from City of Houston Parks and Recreation department. We are very pleased to have him with us. We also have two parent representatives from SDMC, Elizabeth Villarreal and Gina Van Fossen-Suarez. Our "TED" mom and PTA President, Melissa Carollo also joined us. Richard Pesin, Counselor of TED and Frank Salinas, Principal of BLIS and Cynthia Krohn, Campus Educational Technologist filled three of the professional position. The campus chose Lori Frodine as the final professional position, but she is off campus at a meeting today. Our teaching positions are staffed by Dale Harrison, technology teacher, Shannon Koebelen, speech and debate teacher, Suzanne Meador, ESL teacher, Ruby Blackmon, technology teacher, Stephanie Floyd, English teacher, Lynsey Priddy, Art and yearbook teacher and coach, James Mayer, math teacher.

#### Dress Code

Ms. Krohn reported that Mr. Killam made a request for kids to be able to wear the Balfour shirt. Mr. Killam was unable to be present and the shirt was not available to see. Discussion ensued over the merits of allowing the seniors to wear that shirt when it does not have our school name on it and the issues over shirts last year. A motion was made to table the discussion until we could see the shirt and all agreed. We need Mr. Killam to come to the meeting next month and discuss this further with us.

#### School Improvement

We have intervention about to kick off next week. A group of teachers has devoted much time and effort into making certain that students were assigned to the correct class. This intervention period is to be called Ninth Period and will begin on Wednesday.

#### Homecoming and Pep Rallies

We need to get the correct information out for Homecoming. Our date has moved to Yates 11/7, with the dance 11/6/09. We need to discuss the spirit day clothes because the kids need to look cute. We need to use 80's theme, college day, twin day, nerd day, backwards day. We need to discuss that with Student Counsel.

Where are we going to have pep rallies? Can we have them outside in the courtyard with the kids on the front walkway? We need to discuss having them outside with the band and roses out there. Can we have them in the auditorium? Can we bring back spirit ribbons?

Can we use an assembly bell schedule and have the pep rallies in the auditorium? We need to bring spirit back to our school.

#### Personnel

We have four new people on staff, a new receptionist at the front desk, Obed Gama, an hourly worker, Julio Casteñada, Donna Traylor, a teaching assistant in the daycare center and Mr. Lertora's new secretary, Maria Vega will start on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

#### Miscellaneous

Mrs. Carolla made a report about the PTA activities. Ms. Fain is selling PTA t-shirts out of her room. The PTA is doing different things to recognize teachers monthly. She described the new Character in Action program that has begun this year. Character in Action recognizes good things that are happening on campus. There are praise sheets that recognize kids or teachers that are doing good things. Character in Action also recognizes things that are done off campus as well as on campus. PTA will be holding a Founders Day celebration to recognize people who have gotten awards. There will also be a display case for displaying the different praise sheets.

Ms. Meador suggested that we do random gifts to kids of a dollar for doing what is right. She suggested that Tardy Calculator funds be used to fund this project; however, Ms. Krohn indicated that we would have to check on the legality of this suggestion.

How can we make being in dress code a competition to get the kids behind the idea of complying with dress code? Could we have a sign in on Wednesday interventions and the teacher that has the highest percentage of compliance gets a gift certificate.

Mr. Harrison brought up the issue of TAKS testing all day and suggested that we consider letting kids with perfect attendance leave early on TAKS days as a reward for their attendance. We could inform parents and send certificates home that allow early out, perhaps 1:00 on those days to avoid any rushing through the tests. Another teacher suggested that we could allow students to report to the gym or to a field day after a certain time instead of staying confined to a classroom upon completion of the easier tests. The suggestions will be submitted to the administrative

team for consideration.

Mrs. Villarreal described information that she received at the PTA Central meeting last week. She said they mentioned an intervention assistance team and she was unclear of the duties of that team. We need to discuss that team at our school next meeting to inform our parents and determine how they may be able to help.

Mr. Zavala indicated his willingness to work with our school in projects that would involve the Parks Department and our students. He raised the possibility of our students helping in neighborhood parks as their community service hours. We wondered if we could work with the City to do some field trips to a piece of land that is under development and have City planners work with our engineering classes to explore some designs. Mr. Zavala indicated that that request falls under City Planning and is not his area of expertise. Other divisions besides the one that Mr. Zavala heads take care of programs at the parks. While it is possible for us to work with the parks department on developing other parks, these ideas would have to go to the deputy director of the parks department and would have to be formal proposals. Mr. Zavala is willing to work with us if we get a proposal together.

Mr. Zavala is in charge of two programs, Signature parks, and Citizen Park Inspection. They have citizens who have been appointed to grade the parks on specific things. There are 11 parks involved in this program. The other program has to do with kiosks to inform the community about the mowing schedules and the events that occur in the park. Mr. Zavala works in the green space area that makes sure the grass is mowed and that trees are planted.

Ms. Villarreal is concerned about the fact that we do not recognize our childcare achievements. Our childcare lab has received a grant from United Way Bright Beginnings and this has not been publicized much. We need to help them celebrate their success. We also need to help them get back into their playground. Suggestions are welcome. We need to figure out how to get our kids back into the playground.

Mr. Salinas thanked everyone for all of the ideas that they offered. He talked about how these ideas become the seeds of future actions and will attempt to work on all of them. All ideas are appreciated.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.

### **Additional Information**

Next Meeting      Date: to be determined – it will be either Thursday 10/15 or 10/29. Ms. Krohn will set an outlook appointment for the date and send it to everyone. It needs to be scheduled on a different week from the Central Region Collaborative.

**Waltrip High School  
Shared Decision Making Committee  
Sign-in Sheet**

9/24/2009  
#23/2008  
4:15 PM  
Distant Learning Lab

Dale Harrison	<i>Dale Harrison</i>
Suzanne Meador	<i>Suzanne Meador</i>
Ruby Blackmon	<i>Ruby Blackmon</i>
James Mayer	<i>James Mayer</i>
D. J. WHITE	<i>D. J. White</i>
Richard Desin	<i>Richard Desin</i>
Cynthia Krohn	<i>Cynthia Krohn</i>
FRANK SALINAS	<i>Frank Salinas</i>
Stephanie	<i>Stephanie</i>
Shannon Koebelen	<i>Shannon Koebelen</i>
LYNSAY PRIDDY	<i>Lynsay Priddy</i>
Melissa Carolio	<i>Melissa Carolio</i>
Ricardo Zavala	<i>Ricardo Zavala</i>
ELIZABETH VILLARREAL	<i>Elizabeth Villarreal</i>
JIM S. VANHORN	<i>Jim Vanhorn</i>